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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/834,450	04/13/2001	John McMichael	13024/37276	2932

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EXAMINER

EWOLDT, GERALD R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1644	

DATE MAILED: 09/04/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/834,450	Applicant(s) McMichael
Examiner G.R. Ewoldt, Ph.D.	Art Unit 1644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 26, 2003

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 4

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election with traverse of the species, "pancreatic beta cells", in Paper No. 6, filed 6/26/03, is acknowledged. Applicant argues that the species are obvious variants of one another.

Given Applicant's admission that the species are obvious variants of one another, the species requirement is withdrawn.

Claims 1-12 read on the elected invention and are being acted upon.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office Action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-2, 5-9, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Posselt et al. (1990).

Posselt et al. teaches a method of preventing allograft rejection in a pancreatic beta cell transplant recipient comprising administering to the transplant recipient an antigenic preparation (by intravenous or subcutaneous injection) presenting antigen characteristics of the allograft, in combination with additional immunosuppressive therapy (ALS), either during transplantation or after transplantation (see entire document, particularly page 1294, column 1 and Table 1). Note that the transplanted organ itself comprises the antigenic preparation comprising the limitation of "during transplantation" recited in Claim 6 or "within an hour prior" to transplantation of Claim 7.

The reference clearly anticipates the claimed invention.

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the

art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3, 4, 10, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Posselt et al. (1990).

Posselt et al. has been described above. The reference teaching differs from the claimed invention only in that it does not teach the amount of antigenic preparation of Claims 3 and 4, nor the use of the claimed method for skin graft or blood or serum transfusion. Regarding the amount of antigenic preparation administered, the choice of said amount comprises only routine optimization of the claimed method, said routine optimization falling well within the purview of one of skill in the art at the time of the invention. Regarding employing the claimed method with skin graft or blood or serum transfusion, Applicant has stated for the record that said species comprise obvious variants of the claimed invention; see Applicant's response to the election of species requirement, Paper No. 6.

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the phrase "antigens characteristic of the allograft", is vague and indefinite as said "characteristics" have not been defined in the specification. Accordingly the metes and bounds of the claims cannot be ascertained.

8. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

9. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in

the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The specification disclosure is insufficient to enable one skilled in the art to practice the invention as claimed without an undue amount of experimentation. Undue experimentation must be considered in light of factors including: the breadth of the claims, the nature of the invention, the state of the prior art, the level of one of ordinary skill in the art, the level of predictability of the art, the amount of direction provided by the inventor, the existence of working examples, and the quantity of experimentation needed to make or use the invention.

The claimed method comprises a method of inducing immune tolerance, said tolerance preventing allograft rejection. However, the method set forth in the Examples of the specification appears to be at best nonfunctional, and at worst, more dangerous to a transplant recipient than the possibility of rejection. In Example 1, greater than 50% of the animals died of the treatment (7 of 13). In Example 2, 11 of 14 experimental animals died during or shortly after treatment, and only one survived a month. The results of Example 3 are scientifically indecipherable. The specification indicates that the method worked no better than the controls in Example 4. Example 5 discloses that at best, a single dosing of the method achieved only a 33.3% success rate, and then for no more than 13 days. Accordingly, the claimed method, as set forth in the specification, must be considered highly unpredictable. Given said unpredictability, the method of the instant claim must be considered to require undue experimentation.

In re Wands, 858 F.2d at 737, 8 USPQ2d at 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988) indicates that the more unpredictable an area is, the more specific enablement is necessary in order to satisfy the statute. Thus, in view of the quantity of experimentation necessary, the lack of functional working examples, the unpredictability of the art, the lack of sufficient guidance in the specification, and the breadth of the claims, it would take undue trials and errors to practice the claimed invention.

10. No claim is allowed.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Gerald Ewoldt whose telephone number is (703) 308-9805. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:00 am to

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5:00 pm. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (703) 308-3973. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.



G.R. Ewoldt, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 1600
September 03, 2003